



CONTACT:
Betty Wilson or Seth Dye
(804) 236-3631

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 19, 2005

Virginia Airport Operators Council awards aviation scholarship

The John R. Lillard scholarship is given to a student who is preparing for a career in aviation

CHATHAM — Thomas James Gregory, a senior at Chatham High School, is the recipient of the 2005 John R. Lillard Aviation Scholarship. The \$3000 scholarship, sponsored by the Virginia Airport Operators Council (VAOC), is awarded to a Virginia high school senior who excels academically and has been accepted into a post secondary program that will prepare them for an aviation career. A talented student who is a member of the Piedmont Regional Governor's School for Mathematics, Science, and Technology, and a student pilot; Thomas has been accepted for enrollment in the Aviation Business Administration program at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona, Florida.

Presentation of the award was made at a ceremony held May 19 at Chatham High School. Mark Courtney, Airport Director of Lynchburg Regional Airport, represented the VAOC at the event.

The mission of the Virginia Airport Operators Council is to promote the interests of airports in the Commonwealth of Virginia through legislation, regulatory compliance, and education. Its members are airport managers, sponsors, and others involved in the operation of Virginia's public-use airports.

The scholarship is named in honor of the late John R. Lillard, a dedicated aviation professional and member of the Virginia Airport Operators Council, whose career included positions with Eastern Airlines, Chesterfield County Airport, and Richmond International Airport.

#####